



KB8QOI Repeaters  
 52.860 MHz  
 146.74 MHz  
 443.900 MHz

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

November 2017

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## Hello From Temporary Newsletter Editor Bruce, WB8TVD

It's me again. Bruce is running the newsletter for another month in Phil's stead. Lots to talk about this time, most positive and some not so, but all moving forward, and we can all make it great.



This month I ponder the recent CROP Walk, and include an excerpt from a recent note from Larry, WB8R, Michigan Section Manager. Speaking of outer space: Oh, wait! No mention of outer space (except for those two and they are past) in favor of the December meeting & potluck. We'll have the usual food, fellowship, white elephant auction and a brief

meeting, which generally consists of running down the list of reminders for upcoming events. A great time for all. Note the time change for this event only!

I hope to have some additional information to bring to the table (there's that food reference again) and a message from our ARRL Section Manager recounting the recent Michigan HamCon and a hurricane relief update.

As always, good or bad, here we go:

### Announcements:

- Club breakfast: 28 October, 2017, 9:00am at Sharon's in Roger's Heights
- Next meeting: 2 November, 2017, 7:00pm at the BR Dept. of Public Safety
- Club nets: Sunday, 7:30pm, 440 repeater  
                   Tuesday, 9:00pm, 146 repeater
- ARES net: First Tuesday, 8:00pm, 146 repeater
- Winter/Holidays potluck and meeting, 7 December, 6:00pm, at the BR Dept. of Public Safety.  
       More details later in the newsletter and at the November meeting.

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## Minutes From The Meeting – 5 October 2017

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 5 October 2017

Subbing for Jon, KD8GGA, Josh, KE8EKC, opened the meeting at 7:08 pm with 11 members and guests in attendance. Josh apologized for his recent illness that kept him away.

The secretary passed around signup sheets for CROP Walk participation, attendance and net control, asking that the sheets be returned to him.

Josh reminded everyone of the upcoming CROP Walk on Sunday, 8 October, and a brief discussion followed. (TVD: a few more additions to the participant list were most welcomed!)

A few reminders:

The next Club Breakfast will be 28 October at 9am at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

The next meeting will be on 2 November at 7pm at the BRDPS.

Our nets are Sunday 7:30pm on the 440 repeater and Tuesday 9pm on 2 meters.

Secretary: Bruce, WB8TVD: The minutes for the meeting on 7 September were published in the October newsletter. There have been no comments or corrections to those minutes. The minutes were accepted by consensus.

Treasurer: Josh, KE8EKC, gave a summary of the Club's accounts. (TVD: Printed summary can be had by request). The treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE: At the quarterly ARES meeting, the participants practiced passing formal message traffic.

Jeff discussed the recent MiPOTA trail activation (TVD: Summarized in the October newsletter) and the success attained using minimal equipment.

The 22 October ARES exercise at the EOC will involve only Hams. Scott Schroeder will not participate. The exercise will involve using APRS on the handheld transceivers in some fashion.

Repeater: Mike, KD8DIB: A crew visited Jeff's, WD8DLK, place and retrieved the 6-meter duplexer cans from The Silo. They determined that the condition of the superstructure in The Silo was not safe enough to go after the antenna, which was apparently damaged anyway. Dan will assemble the complete 6-meter set and run it in test mode from his place. He would appreciate any reports. Mike has been getting good reports about the 2-meter repeater recently. Dan feels the machine may have lost some sensitivity recently.

The 440-repeater has had good and bad days lately. Dan has a filter to try in the receive line.

Mike updated our information with the MARC. He also notes that the ARRL Repeater Directory is now getting information from RFinder, rather than MARC or the other coordinating organizations. He feels there is some sort of conflict. Bruce noted that the BRA-ARC repeater entries are only partially correct.

Elections: The election process was tabled at the September meeting, with only Bruce offering to serve as Secretary. Josh asked the assembly if we wanted to move forward with the election process. After some discussion, Bruce reaffirmed that he would continue as secretary, but lacked the skill set to also serve as treasurer. Shila, KD8IAL, agreed to serve as vice president, mainly to lead the program activities. After some discussion in which Josh asked if the assembly would like him to step in as president and

the assembly agreeing he would be a good choice, he accepted the position of president. A motion was made by Mike, KD8DIB, seconded by Jeriel, KC8MMF. The three positions were accepted by single unanimous voice vote, leaving the position of treasurer open. Consensus agreement to poll the membership informally before the next meeting to find a willing treasurer. Josh will fill in as treasurer until the next meeting. (TVD: Please see a follow-up note "What's Going On" after the minutes in the newsletter.) We ask that anyone interested in the position please contact a club member. The secretary will draft a note to the membership asking for someone to step up as treasurer and he will pass it by the new officers before sending.

A discussion ensued about who is on the board. The elected officers plus three at-large members. Two of those three have moved away: Tom Behler and Don Mac Connell, both of whom are still officially board members.

George, W8OWN, asked if there were still radios at the Mecosta County building. Per Jeff, no, but there are still antennas mounted and coax run into the EOC room in that building.

Per Jeff, the EOC in Paris still needs antennas mounted on the new tower. He is looking into how and when to contact Crouch Electronics to see if we can hire them to do the work. (TVD: hopefully at a discount!)

It's not too early to start planning the 7 December meeting/potluck. Notably it will start an hour earlier than regular meetings, at 6pm at the usual meeting spot, the Public Safety meeting room. Consensus held that there be no Club-supplied "main course" (TVD: normally the ham). Everyone agreed that there is always more than enough food to fill everyone and then some.

We will, as in the past, encourage donation of canned/boxed goods for the local food pantries and that we will have the white elephant silent auction, since it is our single biggest fund raiser, after membership dues. (TVD: Some details in the newsletter, more at the November meeting)

Josh led a discussion of other fund-raising methods, including sponsoring gaming nights, Ham swap meets or auctions, involvement with local businesses like restaurants who offer "server nights" where an organization supplies servers and receives a portion of the evening's profits. It was agreed that lack of "name" recognition does not help in fund raising, compared to issue or medical concerns.

Bruce met with Jon, who was on the way to work, to pick up the mailbox key. Bruce asked Jon if he was able to serve another term as president. Jon is not sure when he will be able to return to day shifts, so in fairness, he declined to run again.

Bruce later checked the mailbox in Paris and found a stash of mostly ads and local shopper newspapers, but not enough to overflow. He discarded the ads and brought two August newsletters that had been returned, unable to deliver. Bruce noted that another mailing had gone out, and it appeared those had been delivered.

Dan noted that printing the newsletter costs about \$20 per month. Jim, K4UIH, offered that he will look into using his office print/copy machine to do the job. Bruce will send him a copy of the latest newsletter in both Word and PDF formats to experiment with.

A question was asked who runs the pot luck, including the auction? A discussion followed, and agreement was reached that it would be a small group effort, including a couple people who had done it before but who were not at the meeting. They will be contacted for help.

Josh requested help in "learning" the position of president, since there were a couple former presidents in attendance, and more on the Club roster.

Tech Corner: Jeff had built a small Theremin and demonstrated it, then passed it around for everyone to see. He notes that it is a functioning musical instrument and cost him less than \$20. Some of the first Theremins were built in the late 1920s.

Shila asked if we would like to see a demonstration of programming radios in November. Jeff asked if there was any interest in Chirp. (TVD: Huh??)

The 50/50 drawing was won by Bruce, who returned it to the treasury as a donation.

Shila will bring refreshments to the November meeting

Josh adjourned the meeting about 8:20 pm. No Hams or guests were harmed in the conduct of business. We all went home. Well, mostly.

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## What's Going On?

Hi All,

In the minutes, you notice we selected a new president. The very next day I received an e-mail from Josh. Sometime after the meeting, he found out he would be moving with his family to another city and would not be able to step into the president's role as planned.

I immediately contacted our other remaining officer, our remaining board member, our EC and two past presidents for help and advice. I also contacted Josh to make sure we had all the Club files and other material before he left. Josh did give me everything he had, including files and treasurer material.

Now we are left with but one problem: We are back to square one looking for Club officers. As voted, Shila and I will remain as vice president and secretary, respectively. We, as a Club, are actively seeking a president and treasurer.

Our biggest problem is that fully eight of the Club's most active people have moved out of the area. We need some folks to step into some big shoes for these two positions. The hard part is done. BRA-ARC has a mission as an ARRL Special Services Club that supports ARES/RACES and has three repeaters. The president needs to be a cheerleader and organizer. The treasurer needs to have a modicum of bookkeeping skills, and all the officers need some enthusiasm for the Club and Ham Radio.

As the song goes, where are the heroes? Who is willing to step up and step in?

Dan, WA8AEN, will conduct the November meeting, during which we will be choosing people to take up the slack and lead the organization. Then we will have a full slate of officers. We will then be poised to fill out our complement of board members, who will be appointed according to the bylaws.

For those who come forward, I thank you! One more time: If you haven't considered holding an office, think it over. There will be no railroading. I will bet my conductor's hat on it!

See you at the meeting!

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD  
Secretary

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## Secretary's Ponderings – November 2017

What a good time everyone had communicating for the CROP Walk this year! Finally, a really beautiful day! Nobody suffered frostbite or being soaked by rain. The beautiful weather brought out the walkers, too. The organizers estimated 135 walkers, with a few pooches, child strollers and one little red wagon with kids and supplies.



*Jeff, K8OE, at the IRC taking on duty as NCS (WB8TVD Photo)*

Many thanks to Jeff, K8OE, for taking on NCS duties at the IRC Building, and to all the Radio Support participants: Dan, WA8AEN; Bill, N8MZB; Jeriel, KC8MMF; Lynne, KE8HRN; Jim, K4UIH; Mike, KD8DIB; Kenny, K3NNY; Patricia, KD8GGD; Calvin, KD8KQC; and on his bike to follow the long-route sweepers, Mark, KX8XX. Covering the 4.5-mile-long route, Mark must have ridden more than 30 miles.

Being stationed at the final checkpoint, I got to meet all the walkers from both long and short routes. There was a lamppost that conveniently had a concrete base on which to park my hinder. I was reminded of the 1940s popular song, "Lili Marlene," there underneath the lamppost. Bill started at one point and moved to the corner of Maple and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue greeting the long walkers twice. I'm sure a few thought they were seeing double.

At my station, one young lady dropped her water bottle. Her companions were laughing at her as I told her I was going to report her for water bottle abuse. I asked others if their dogs weren't taller at the start of the event. One fellow offered that he was, too! I was completely flummoxed by the two fellows walking briskly, but intent on a smart phone and talking in math-speak about factoring. My math education was short-circuited long ago, so I don't speak that particular language. I'm not sure they even realized they were walking.

I was so sure the route was at its apex where I was that I told several people it was downhill from there back to the IRC Building. It wasn't until I was driving back to the IRC that I discovered the route had a significant hill where a family was pushing their kids' wagon up the grade. I stopped to apologize. They did not assault me, so I figured I was forgiven.

All who participated had a great time and I hope everyone can return in 2018 to help support this worthy cause. Thank you all!

See you at the next meeting!

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## **Greetings to the Hams of Michigan,**

The Inaugural 2017 Great Lakes HamCon (2017 Great Lakes Division Convention) is in the books! We hosted the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention and welcomed over a thousand guests to our incredible venue at Michigan International Speedway. We welcomed Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL President and Yvette Vinci, KC1AIM and Kim McNeill, KB1WUX from the Marketing/Circulation Department at ARRL HQ who operated the ARRL display and answered countless questions.

This event was the culmination of over a year's work on behalf of dedicated staff and volunteers from our 21 clubs that came together to produce this event.

We had a day and a half of forums in the great meeting rooms along pit road as well as a one-day Tech class and subsequent VE test session. Our ARRL Banquet was held in the prestigious Champion's Club atop the grandstands where Great Lakes Division Awards were presented to deserving individuals.

As with all new events of this kind, our list of commercial vendors was smaller than we would have liked. For a first-time event, most chose to take a wait and see approach, and they missed a good one! Our vendors reported fantastic sales numbers and while we thank them for seeing the 'vision' and coming to GLHamCon, we also thank our shoppers for making the event worthwhile for our vendors.

There were some areas that did not go as planned or happen how we thought they would, and as a result, we have a laundry list of things that can be made better for next year's event. Your GLHamCon team appreciates your understanding and patience.

With over 1000 paid attendees, we are absolutely rating the event as a success! Our thanks go to our NASCAR and Michigan International Speedway friends, the ARRL, our partner clubs who believed in us and most of all, the amateurs of the ARRL Great Lakes Division and beyond. Stay tuned for GLHamCon Ver. 2.0!

## **Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and Caribbean relief updates.**

Many thanks go to our fellow hams in Texas and Florida (and others from afar) for their quality assistance to their neighbors and communities by providing communications and personnel where needed. In addition, those that volunteered to deploy to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands to help ease the devastation there have done a great service to their nation. As ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR stated at the recent ARRL Banquet at Great Lakes HamCon, this is our finest hour! We can all be very proud of the amateur radio community's response to the call for help.

All the latest updates on the Puerto Rico and Caribbean can be found here: [www.arrl.org/pr-carib](http://www.arrl.org/pr-carib)

73 until next month,

Larry, WB8R

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: Larry Camp, WB8R

wb8r@arrl.org

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FOOD!!! I'm sure that is a familiar phrase to all BRA-ARC members.

Mark your calendars for 7 December, 6:00pm. The December meeting and holiday potluck will be that evening. It will include a fabulous table of treats supplied by each attendee, from appetizers to main course items to dessert. This year we, as a Club, will not be supplying a ham as we have had an abundance of delights to choose from and there should be plenty.

As always, we are asking for a donation of a canned or boxed food item (or make it more than one) to be donated to a local food pantry.

As if the food were not enough, anyone and everyone can bring one or more items to donate to a white elephant silent auction. At the close of festivities, the winning bidder for each item will be determined.



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We ask each attendee to bring a dish to pass and table service. As an retired person, I will provide the drinks, consisting of a variety of half-liter bottles of bubbly stuff, or if I get a better (read: lazier) idea, I will substitute that. No telling what will happen there!

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More details will surface at the November meeting. So, as always.....

See you there!

Bruce, WB8TVD  
Secretary

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## BITS & PIECES OF THIS & THAT

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November Hamfests in Michigan (source ARRL):

No November Hamfests in Michigan. Bummer! There is one on 3 December, so watch this space for information on that.

Use that time to get on the air. Check the Contest Corral and Special Events activities in "QST" and on the ARRL website to find things to do instead of attending a Hamfest. Get on and operate! Earn some wallpaper!

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If you would rather receive an e-mail version of the newsletter, let the secretary know!

**November 2017**

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